

The Point

The Fitchburg State College Newspaper

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Week of March 13th

Rivard's meetings respond to budget cuts

By Eileen Hamm

Interim President Michael Rivard held a meeting on Thurs., Feb. 27 with faculty, staff and students to discuss Governor Romney's proposed budget cuts. Commenting on the headlines of the Sentinel & Enterprise newspaper that read: "Romney: Mount, FSC should merge," he made it clear to those gathered that the news article was a complete surprise to everyone. This same article stated that "the administration [Romney] has directed FSC's Board of Trustees to put off its presidential search until details of the consolidation plan are fully developed." At press time, Interim President Rivard was awaiting confirmation on this statement.

Rivard called the meeting of the FSC community to make it clear that the Board of Higher Education had not been consulted about the proposed Mount Wachusett Community College merger with FSC. He explained that this sort of massive reorganization would require legislative approval. He further explained that this legislature would need to be filed, and there would be sixty days to act on this proposal. However, it can become law in sixty days if nothing is done which would mean that legislature filed on May 1 would take effect on July 1 (the beginning of the fiscal budget year). It is the hope of the BHE that feedback might go into this legislation.

Rivard went through the information presented at the BHE meeting including the Governor's plans to create seven regions for the grouping of all the state colleges. There are a few exceptions to this planned grouping. They include the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, the Massachusetts College of Art, the University of Massachusetts Medical Center, and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, which would become independent colleges. Other issues, including the proposal for a governing board consisting of representatives appointed by the governor, were discussed. Rivard emphasized that tuition costs were certain to increase and that the money allotted to FSC could decrease by about 10 to 15%. He stated that Massachusetts is definitely in a fiscal crisis and that the college would somehow manage even with the proposed cuts. He made it clear that the college is in business for the students.

Interim President Rivard informed the gathering that the Massachusetts college presidents plan to meet and when they do, they will issue a statement. Rivard also plans to hold a communications session with the students at Fitchburg State College to keep students abreast of all plans that will certainly affect them. By holding this session, he also is determined to squelch any rumors regarding the proposed restructuring plan and budget proposal presented by Governor Mitt Romney.

**MORE NEWS ON MERGER, BUDGET CONCERNS,
AND PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH ON PAGE 5.**

North St. facelift finally finds progress

By Stephanie Renaud

The North Street Project was in the works two years ago. The purpose of the project is to have North Street serve as a link from the college to downtown Fitchburg as a part of Fitchburg's Urban Revitalization Project. It is being made possible by a collaborative effort of the city, state and federal governments, as well as FSC. The company doing the work is UEL contractors of Fitchburg and the project is under the direction of the Massachusetts Highway Department.

A Community Block Grant and federal transportation funds given by Massachusetts Representative, John Olver, made money available for the project. The total price of the project is currently unknown. Phase Two will cost about \$1.5 million and Phase Three will be around \$800,000.

Phase One consisted of the renovation of North Street from Main Street to Green Street. It was completed in 2000. Phase Two was supposed to be finished in early September 2002 before the start of the 2002-2003 FSC school year. However, there was a delay due to the unmarked utility lines on the street. Phase Two consists of the widening of North Street, the installation of Victorian style lights, the installation of sidewalks with granite curbing and brick accents, and utilities were moved underground along with some water and sewer improvements.

An early winter caused a delay in the curbing for the sidewalk "We'll get back to work as soon as we can in the spring, to finish the sidewalks with brick accents and do the final paving," said Larry Casassa, Fitchburg's deputy planning coordinator.

As of January 2003, 75 to 85 percent of the work was complete with underground utilities in place, as well as paving for the winter and the streetlights were put up.

The next phase, Phase Three, is currently in the design process, which could take three to four months to complete. Casassa is optimistic about a Spring 2004 ground breaking. The Phase will install "traffic



North St. before Victorian style lights were installed

calming" measures to increase pedestrian safety at the North Street and Pearl Street intersection.

There is now a pending deal to sell three North Street houses for \$320,400 to FSC. They were first taken by eminent domain in 2001 by the city's Redevelopment Authority. They were bought in order for North Street to be widened. The property owners were paid \$292,000 for 154, 156 and 162 North Street along with \$430,000 for moving and relocation expenses. Short-term plans are for temporary parking and long term ideas include plans for a bookstore or a two deck garage.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Does democracy exist?

By Adam Howe

It's no wonder why the rest of the world hates the United States. The persona that is given off by the news and media is all based on our government and movies. Now, our movies are filled with death, killing, sex, scandal, and profanity, but that's just entertainment. When it all comes down to it the U.S. has been giving off a bad vibe when it comes to real life more so than in the form of entertainment.

Our president, George W. Bush, who gained a lot of respect and confidence after the 9/11 tragedy in 2001 as a "fearless leader" seems to be throwing it all away. He has told the country that he wants to go to war with Iraq; we all know this. May it be that he truly feels we need to go over there to fight for some sort of freedom or may it be that he wants to finish what his father started? That's not the point. The point of the matter revolves around some sort of democracy.

The United States, who fought for democracy during the entire Cold War, is a big part of the United Nations. The United Nations bases its entire entity around democracy. That's why it's there. It's there so all the countries involved can keep other countries in check, keep countries at peace, and if absolutely need be help other countries out militarily.

Now, when just about every other country in the United Nations votes against war one would think that it wouldn't happen. That's what democracy does. Majority rules. Apparently George W. Bush doesn't believe in that anymore. It sure seems that after the vote in the United Nations to check where all the other countries stand, Bush will go to war on his own if need be.

Now think about this, if another country, a country not so intricate in the United Nations was doing what the United States, well not the United States, scratch that, what Bush is doing they'd be scorned, even considered for expulsion of the UN. Now, I bet most people outside of the U.S., and even some inside the U.S., think that the U.S. should be kicked out of the UN if Bush pulls through with war after everyone else says they are against it. I mean, what's the point in being in the United Nations if you aren't going to play by the rules?

Bush is taking his power to a whole new level. He thinks he can be put over everyone and everything and seems to be playing it off like he's working for the American people, though he doesn't want to listen to them. Over 100 million people protested war and all he had to say was "I respectfully disagree". What goes through his head? I don't want to know.

Spending all your money on books?

By Stephanie St. Jean

How many of you are sick and tired of paying hundreds of dollars for books every semester? I know I sure am. Wouldn't it be awesome if there were a place where you could buy books at a cheaper price? Guess what, there is! I discovered a website off of Ebay called half.com. You can look for almost anything you want to on this website and find lower prices than you would anywhere else. For example, an \$80 book cost me a total of \$11. That is a huge amount of savings that I was able to use on other expenses.

You may not always find the book you are looking for, or you may find an earlier edition of it. It's always worth it to look, and sometimes the earlier edition of a book is no different than the newer one. That is how my book was so cheap, I bought an earlier edition than what we were using, and hey it worked out.

Half.com isn't just for books either. You can get DVD's, videos, and a variety of other items on there. And the best thing is you don't have to bid on it like you do on Ebay. If you see something you like, at a good price, you can just buy it. You have to have an Ebay account though, which is easy enough to get, and by doing that you can use

both Ebay and half.com. I've found half.com to be very helpful in my shopping endeavors. You can also set up your own account and sell things of yours to other people, while only giving Ebay a small percentage of the money you received.

Student Tim Card sells books on half.com. "I started selling books at half.com around the end of last year. I've also sold videos and CDs," said Card. It usually takes four stamps to ship something through media mail. Half.com pays for the shipment and takes a small commission from each order. "I get paid through direct deposit to my checking account," says Card, "At the bottom of my website

(www.appleisp.net/~odysseus), I put a banner link to half.com. If people use that link to join half.com and buy things, I get a small commission, as an affiliate." Card has purchased books, videos, CDs, stereo equipment and computer equipment through half.com. "It saves you a lot of money, and some books are just 75 cents, +shipping cost," Card stated.

Try it out, and I am sure you will find prices that are much better than anywhere else, giving you more money. We are college students and every penny counts, so make it count for something useful.

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The Point considers for publication letters to the editor on any topic of interest to the Fitchburg State College community. All submissions run at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and are subject to editing for style and length.

All articles must be typed or legibly handwritten and include a name and a phone number, in case of questions.

Announcements should be short, including

dates, places, times, and a contact person.

The content of any article labeled Opinion, does not necessarily represent the views of The Point, its staff, or Fitchburg State College.

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Make a splash at FSC's Leadership Conference with "*Fish!*" author Harry Paul- and Many More!

FITCHBURG, MA.- Harry Paul, co-author of the best-selling book "*Fish! A Remarkable Way to Boost Morale and Improve Results*," will be the keynote speaker at FSC's Sixth Annual Leadership Conference on April 1 beginning at 2:30 p.m. in Ellis White Lecture Hall. Paul's talk is scheduled for 5 p.m. in EWLH. The speech is open to the public free of charge.

"*Fish!*" uses Seattle's Pike Place Fish Market as an example of how an organization can create an enthusiastic and production workplace. Paul has more than 20 years of experience in management training and consulting, sales, distribution, product development, and international operations.

Also on the agenda for the conference is Christopher Langenfeld, an engineer who helped develop the Segway People Mover. Langenfeld is currently working on an advanced alternative energy source.

The conference will feature remarks by FSC Interim President Michael T. Rivard and Fitchburg Mayor Dan Mylott. In addition, sessions will be held by President of the National Conference on Community and Justice Robert Lewis Jr., and Compass Group Training and Development

Consultant of NAD Ron Tremper.

Also leading sessions will be a number of FSC faculty and staff: Director of Counseling Services Robert Hynes; Campus Police Officer Sarah Moeckel; Student Affairs Administrative Assistant Tara Piccini; Chief of Campus Police Brian McCullough; Intramural Coordinator Peter J. Murray; Assistant Director of Career Services Jay Bickford; Associate Dean of Students Tullio Z. Nieman; Director of Business Operations Mariann Castelli-Hier; Director of Accounting Cathleen Daggett; Coordinator of Volunteer Efforts and Special Events Cindy Flynn; LEAD Student Coordinator Carrie Dion; Director of International Education Clare O'Brien; Professor John Chetro-Szivos; Student Trustee Adam Keyes; Vice President of Finance/Treasurer Cheryl Groeneveld; Vice President of Student Affairs Kathleen Simons; Professor Jeff Godin; Editor of the College Newspaper Amy S. Bobrowski; and International Student Office and Intern Ben Reed.

For more information, call (978) 665-3160 or (978) 665-3164.

Alpha Lambda Delta inducts new freshman into their society

By: Jillian Places

Alpha Lambda Delta is the freshman honor society at FSC. Freshman who achieve at least a 3.5 or higher there first year here are inducted into the society. An academic advisor runs the club, which at this time is Stanley Bulcholz. There are also students who run the club. They are the President Patti Berube, Vice President Keira Clemenzi, and Secretary Robin L. Kanter. Currently there is no treasurer.

On Dec. 8, 2002, Alpha Lambda Delta held their induction for the 2001-2002 inductees.

Alpha Lambda Delta is now selling sweatshirts. The cost is only \$30, for the maroon hooded sweatshirt with gray writing. The writing will include the logo for Alpha Lambda Delta. Orders must be placed by **Monday April 7, 2003**.

Anyone interested in buying a sweatshirt should see either Patti Berube or Robin L. Kanter. You can reach Patti Berube at peprmntpatti9@yahoo.com or Robin L. Kanter at Rkanter@fsc.edu to place your order. Information on the sweatshirts will be sent out within the next week.

The club looks forward to great things in the future. There will also be a spring induction coming up next semester. We look forward to this year's incoming freshman. If you have any questions feel free to contact either Patti Berube or Robin L. Kanter.



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Saturday	8:30 am	- 10:30 pm
Sunday	12:00 noon	- 10:30 pm

Check out our

"Introduction to Candlepin"

Program for FSC students and employees
(See Flyers at the Student Activity Center)

NBA and TEBA member

Student Q&A with President Rivard

By Eileen Hamm

On Tues., March 4, President Rivard met with FSC students in Ellis White Lecture Hall to bring them up to date on events surrounding Governor Romney's release of his proposed budget cuts. Rivard covered points raised at the meeting held last Thursday and added information that was available to him since that meeting.

Rivard began the meeting by announcing that the presidential search had not been halted. He assured students that Fitchburg State College is not closing. Rivard stated that FSC has been here for 109 years and that it will be here for another 109 years. He posed a couple of rhetorical questions — "Will there be changes? Yes. What will these changes be? We don't know."

He then assured students that the proposed merger with Mount Wachusett Community College would not affect any programs at FSC. He stated that FSC will have its own President and repeated that there are no plans to close the college. The college will maintain its identity; physically, the two colleges will remain separate. The merger has not been clarified, but the merger would probably involve administrative reorganizations and would probably involve more collaboration with Mount Wachusett Community College.

Rivard made it clear that the State of Massachusetts is facing a financial crisis and is facing a \$3 billion dollar shortfall. According to the governor's numbers, higher education will face a \$150 million shortfall. In order to fill in this gap, the governor's plan calls for a in-state tuition increase of \$576 per year, which will result in \$94 million dollars. Of this amount, \$44 million would be funneled back to the schools and \$54 million would be used to offset the budget shortfall. With the governor's plan, the budget cuts would result in a \$2.5 million cut for FSC.

Rivard pointed out to the students assembled that all these proposals require legislation. The Governor has filed the bill and the legislature needs to act on it within sixty days. He pointed out that this could become a law in sixty days if nothing is done by the legislature.

*"Will there be changes? Yes.
What will those changes be?
We don't know."*

**-Interim President
Michael Rivard**

STUDENTS POSE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PRO- POSED BUDGET CUTS TO RIVARD

QUESTION: How will the proposed budget cuts affect Leadership Academy

students' tuition coverage?

RIVARD: This is a question that needs to be explored. We do not have any hard data.

QUESTION: Will state financial aid decrease?

RIVARD: There is no talk of this yet. The rate increase of tuition would make \$44 million available for scholarships. The state funds \$90 million in scholarships.

QUESTION: How does this proposal affect out-of-state students?

RIVARD: Out-of-state tuition will go up to current market rates, which will mean a great increase. This increase would amount to an additional \$3,129 (a 28% increase per year).

QUESTION: Will the increases cover the cuts? Will student fees also increase?

RIVARD: You are asking for data that we have no hard figures on yet. I can only answer questions with speculation. This speculation is based on my 38 years of experience.

QUESTION: When will the legislation be filed?

RIVARD: It was filed last Wednesday (the 4th Wednesday in February). The legislature has until June 30th to pass it.

QUESTION: Do we know how this is broken down?

RIVARD: There is no detail in this proposal. We only have one page. The number is not broken down at all, as it was in the past proposals.

QUESTION: Will there be layoffs?

RIVARD: It is a possibility, but we have no idea. 80% of the FSC budget is payroll and 10% of the budget is for fuel.

QUESTION: Are the candidates aware of this?

RIVARD: Yes. All of the candidates are aware of this proposal. The candidates are seasoned

people who have been around this sort of problem and these sorts of issues before. This issue was discussed at the interviews and it was not something that had a major effect on them.

QUESTION: Can this legislation proposal packet be made available to the FSC community?

RIVARD: The packet is available on line at www.mass.gov. The government saved money by not printing this packet for distribution.

QUESTION: Do you think this is a tactical measure?

RIVARD: This is an issue that does not touch only higher education. It also touches human services, the court system, and elsewhere. This is a House Budget that represents a fundamental change in the way the governor wants to run the state government.

QUESTION: Will there be any good things happening in the next couple of years?

RIVARD: The people in this room are the good things that are happening here at FSC. We have good programs in place, we are increasing the student body, applications for admission to FSC are up, admissions are up, and we are drawing a higher quality of students while still maintaining diversity.

QUESTION: Do you have a prediction about this merger and how students' lives will change?

RIVARD: I have no crystal ball but I can tell you that the education side will not change. Programs will remain in place. There could be a consolidation of administrative services.

QUESTION: With an in-house budget here, if we merged, what would happen?

RIVARD: We have nothing definite, but if we merged, it is possible that it would be looked at as a single budget.

QUESTION: When the seven regional councils are formed, will students be represented?

RIVARD: In the plan, there is no mention of student representation, but Peter Nissen of BHE said that he wants to include students.

President Rivard encouraged students to send him any suggestions, comments, or questions to his e-mail: mrivard@fsc.edu. He stated that he wants input from the FSC community.

Magic taking place at McKay

By Kristine McCaffrey

There is only one word to describe what is going on at the McKay School here on the FSC campus. Magic. There is magic in the eyes of the McKay school children, FSC education students, Judy Moran's day care children and especially Diana Suskind and her Fine Arts in Early Education class.

Suskin's Early Elementary class put together magical "Abracadabra" learning centers in one of the McKay classrooms for the purpose of observing children as they explore the centers. Its purpose is also to be able to incorporate age appropriate activities that are fun and educational to add to their own practicum, and to encourage children to learn through play. The class also had to write various papers and lessons about the learning centers. There were five centers altogether.

Melissa Bellegarde and Heather Mailloux, two of Suskin's students, explained their center. "Our theme this year," said Bellegarde, "was magic, so my partner and I created an enchanted forest. It was stocked with developmentally appropriate activities for the kids."

Mailloux explained that, "these activities go along with what corresponds with grade level. They are fun activities, but they are also educational. Whether it be math or science or merely drama, it's all apart of our curriculum framework."

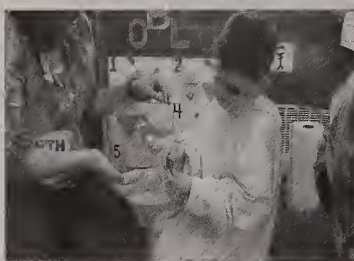
The center's activities included bubble making with soap and colored water. The objective was for kids to mix the bubbles up themselves and learning how to blow bubbles. The "Cave of Wonder" allowed kids to count stalactites, spiders, bats and then graph how many each child saw by picture. Balancing was another task, as well as color mixing, matching, and pattern boards, in which patterns are made and followed using leaves. One

activity was a shadow box where kids learn hand eye coordination as well as how light reflects a shadow on light paper.

The center called "Midnight Wonders" took a different approach and focused on emotions and dreams in which one activity involved making dream catchers. A favorite activity includes using "catching" construction paper fish with numbers on them. The fish also have a certain number of dots on them to represent numbers. One daycare student really enjoyed this activity. "I liked the part where you do the fishing with the numbers because it's fun. I caught all the numbers," said the three year veteran of a McKay day care class.

Judy Moran, a teacher at the McKay day care, became involved with these learning centers three years ago. She let her day care class become explorers in the centers so the FSC early elementary class could observe and learn from them. Moran explains that she thinks what Suskind's class is doing is very important. "I think it is a good bridge between our daycare program and what Diana's class is doing because they all learn from each other. Her class gained a lot because they are working so hard at really trying to be really creative about it. By having the kids go up there and try it out is an excellent way of seeing if their centers work."

Moran explains that her day care program really enjoys the centers. "The children get all excited about going to the centers. The kids get excited and tell other kids how great it is and how they get to play and make things and take them home. It's a domino effect. You should see their



Child in "The Abracadabra Lab"

faces when they tell their parents all that they did. They come back exhausted, but they had a great time playing and we really believe that kids learn through play."

All of the FSC students who worked on the centers perform a dance and song before the kids enter the centers. The song and dance explains what the centers have to offer. "As a part of our learning center," says Bellegarde, "we chose the song 'Do You Believe in Magic' by the Lovin' Spoonful. We changed the words to suite our theme and we made up a dance to the song 'Never Had a Friend like Me' from the movie 'Aladdin'. We also had to make up costumes that went with our center. I was a skunk, a magic skunk."

Both Bellegarde and Mailloux stated that the learning center assignment was difficult, time consuming and stressful. "We didn't have enough time," stated Mailloux. "We put it together in two weeks. We had to put a lot more than two weeks worth of time. We had to get in their as much as we could."

On February 27th and March fifth the McKay kindergarten classes have been invited to explore the learning centers. This is how the FSC students will gain feedback about their centers. The FSC students give their teacher Diana Suskind a lot of credit for helping with the centers. Although Suskind modestly refers to herself as "only a facilitator" she is more involved and excited that probably she even knows. "She is very proud of her students and gets very excited about it. She gets very involved and is very passionate," said Bellegarde.

Regie Gibson returns; headlines open mic

By Robin L. Kanter

On Wednesday March 5, 2003, Regie Gibson and Philip Pemberton made a guest appearance in Dr. Tapply's Teaching Writing in Secondary Education class. Gibson is a spoken word poet and Pemberton is a vocalist with his own band.

The class had the opportunity to ask questions and learn some new exercises to use in the classroom in their future teaching careers.

So many lessons were learned in this small amount of time. Many students realized what it was like to be like those students in class who naturally shy away from work; they learned more about themselves, and what to expect from their students. The exercise inspired many students in the class.

Gibson and Pemberton appeared at the Bagel Bar in Fitchburg this evening with an incredible performance. When they left, they headed straight to the Underground Pub at Fitchburg State College. The audience was packed and ready to go. FSC students had the opportunity to read some of their own work. When Gibson and Pemberton arrived, they had to be put on hold while the poets finished with enthusiasm.



Some of FSC poets that read their work were Ferah Ileri, Andy Levine, and Eileen Hamm. Levine gave an excellent performance. His work improves with each passing day.

Pemberton and Gibson performances were outstanding. Their sincerity of their words helps us to picture the image. This was their second appearance here at FSC with one more to follow in the future. They will return April 30. Gibson and Pemberton will return to FSC next year and we look forward their appearances with anticipation of more greatness. "A musician must make music, an artist must paint, a poet must write if he is to be ultimately at peace with himself. What one can be, one must be" -Abraham Moslow.



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Storyteller Steve Burt comes to FSC in latest "Meet the Author" series

By Eileen Hamm

The English Club is proud to welcome Steve Burt to the FSC campus. Burt is a renowned storyteller and award-winning author of numerous children's books. He will be appearing in the Ellis White Lecture Hall on Mon., March 24 at 6:00 p.m. as part of the ongoing "Meet The Author" series hosted by the English Club.

Steve Burt is definitely a storyteller of the heart. He tells stories in a tasteful, traditional style that depicts humanity at its best. He is a Book-Of-The-Year Finalist for May 2002. His New England ghost stories collection *Odd Lot: Stories to Chill the Heart* won the silver Benjamin Franklin Award for Best Mystery/Suspense Book of 2001. He has also been awarded *My Legacy's* Editor's Choice Award and *The Storyteller's* Reader's Choice Award. In addition to his numerous books, his work has appeared in Reader's Digest, Writer's Digest, and other publications including Family Circle.

Steve Burt's gift for storytelling captivates young and old alike. Don't miss this opportunity to meet this renowned author and hear his readings. If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact Eileen Hamm at 6367.

Star Search has made its way to FSC

By Eileen Hamm

There are voices singing in the halls. Comedians are testing their material on friends. Dancers are choreographing their steps. Actors are rehearsing their lines. The excitement is mounting as eager contestants polish and rehearse their material. In the midst of all this preparation, one question keeps surfacing.

"Do you know when we can sign up for the First Annual FSC Star Search?"

The wait is finally over. On Mon., March 24, students who wish to compete can sign up for the Star Search at the Information Desk in the Hammond Building. A book will be at the Information Desk that will request the contestant's name, phone number, e-mail address, and campus post office box. In addition, each contestant needs to list their category of talent (singing, dancing, acting, comedy, etc.).

PLEASE NOTE: Singers who are competing will be asked to sing either acapella or to bring sheet music for their piece. All sheet music must be submitted no later than April 4 to Eileen Hamm at Campus Mail Box 3040. No taped music will be used.

Watch this newspaper and FSC bulletin boards for further details.

"The Call of the Wild" performs to success

By Natalie Wisenbaker

A very talented group of actors and crew answered the call opening night for the FSC production of "The Call of the Wild." Once again, Director Richard McElvain brings us not only an enjoyable evening of theater, but a work that challenges the mind and the senses. Not for the faint of heart, the sound effects are quite successful and include gun shots, whips, and breaking bones.

"The Call of the Wild" opened March 5 and closes March 15. All performances are in McKay Auditorium providing an excellent venue allowing the audience intimacy with the characters and providing the actors plenty of stage room for scene development. Proceeds from ticket sales and "Angel" donations will help the actors defray costs of taking this dramatic piece to the 2003 Edinburgh International Fringe Theater Festival this summer in Edinburgh, Scotland. Three years ago FSC took "The Tempest" to the Edinburgh competition.

"The Call of the Wild" is a new musical written by Boston-area playwright Jon Lipsky in two acts and was adapted from Jack London's famous novels, "The Call of the Wild" and "White Fang." The music was written by Bill Grady and well fashioned in a folksy manner to compliment the setting. The score allows the actors to be actors first and good musicians second. Music for this production is under the direction of Mary Chapin Durling. The only instrument needed is a piano and this one is in the very capable hands of Jena Paolilli.

The mood is set before the side doors are closed and the house lights are dimmed. A few actors wander lazily into a saloon and one begins easily strumming his guitar. This "pre-play" mood setter is effective for focusing the mind and ridding the viewer of distractions. Randall Hennemuth keeps a steady and casual pace with the guitar providing a melancholy persona that will be in sharp contrast to his character of "Spitz"

Continued on page 8

Fitchburg State College

WXPL's
**Battle
of the
Bands
2003**

**March 26
March 27
April 2
April 3**

all shows start 7:00 pm

NO COVER

Underground Pub

Hammond Campus Center

The Defeat	The Lead Hour	Get A Job
Budnik	Distance Means Everything	Scattered
Furvis	Sometimes She Burns	Brilliant Zero
The Regret	The Danny Tanners	Ruksac
Lost Pilot	Two The Wounded	Incident 14
Red Adam	Angels With Filthy Souls	The Confession
God Awful	No Ones Kind	The Underdogs

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WXPL 91.3 FM
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Hunger Banquet raises awareness

By Tim Card

On Feb. 6, Masspirg held a Hunger Banquet in the pub. These events help people to understand how widespread hunger really is in our country and the world. As each guest enters the banquet, she gets a small card, which tells which wealth category she is representing. 15% of the world's people, including most Americans, belong to the wealthiest group, with a yearly income of \$9000 or more. 30% of the people of the world belong to a middle group, making between \$750 and \$9000 per year. 55% of the people in the world are so poor, that they make less than \$750 per year. Many of the poorest people live in countries that are so far in debt, that they cannot provide basic social services.

To raise awareness about the rates of world hunger, Oxfam America puts on hunger banquets. Members of the audience assume the roles of people from different countries, with varying levels of available food. The guests simulating the poorest of the world's people sit on the floor, getting one glass of water and a spoonful of rice each. The middle group sits in chairs and gets rice with refried beans. The group simulating the wealthiest people sits at a table with a full meal, gaining priority over everyone else.

After the meal, Dr. O'Brien spoke about her brother David, who died of a respiratory virus, while trying to help the hungry in India. David had started his personal campaign against hunger at a college Volunteer Center, like the one we have at Fitchburg State. He rode across the country on bicycle to raise hunger awareness, before traveling to Ireland, Africa and India to help farmers to learn better ways to grow food. David's hometown of Buffalo, New York now holds an annual Hunger Banquet, which attracts an average of forty volunteers and over two hundred guests each year.

FSC student Christina Valente was the next presenter. Christina has done missionary work in Laos, where she witnessed hunger first hand. She also recounted the tale of a friend who went to Haiti, where the children were so hungry that they chewed on bones. Kristina did a demonstration to compare the southern half of the United States with India. Though the locations have similar areas of arable land, there are thirteen times as many people in India.

The FSC Hunger Banquet was sponsored by Masspirg and organized by Kelly Hinds. Masspirg and the Volunteer Center will be helping out at Fitchburg soup kitchens from 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm, on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. If you would like to volunteer, contact the Volunteer center and meet at the M&M Lounge at 3:30 on a Tuesday or Thursday.

Energetic drama captures students

Continued from page 7

later in the play.

The drama, like the book, centers around the adventures of a loving family dog named Buck who is stolen from a happy, easy existence and is sold as a sled dog in Alaska. Buck learns many lessons from the Gods (humans) that rule his world. And it soon becomes evident why Buck proclaims; "To be in the hands of a stupid God - that's a truly terrifying thing." Jesse Tarbell's performance as "Buck" was riveting, appropriately holding back in the beginning to give us the wild Buck in the end. The pack he was sold into included sled dogs played by Hennemuth, Christina Bontempo, Katie Letien, Kathleen Coughlin, Erica Prance and Holly Johnson.

The physically demanding nature of each role was embraced with energy and commitment. Their movements were believable and took you into the mind of the hunt and the hunted and certainly brought to life what Lipsky had penned. The choreography was directed by Susan Levine.

With the beginning of Act II, Danielle Desmarais literally ignites the stage with energy and light as "White Fang" even before speaking a word. The young pup of Buck and She-Wolf (Beth Ashton), White Fang's story is the opposite of Buck's in that she begins life in the wild and eventually finds a loving family.

In the second act we learn more about Weedon Scott (Bryan Maddern) and his Eskimo partner "Running Wolf" (Lindsay Flathers). Although both are introduced in the first Act, the characters are more fully developed in Act II and their lives become very much involved with White Fang. Maddern and Flathers are two of the funniest thespians on campus, so to see them in such serious, heartrending roles was particularly gripping.

Other actors rounding out this talented ensemble should be noted, for everyone gave a noteworthy performance. These include: Amy Comeau, Ryan DeCarolis, Nick Fadden, Evelyn Garcia, and Michael Shine. Each one truly had a moment (or two or three) to shine.

Like the music, the costumes and scenery were simple and absolutely just right. The Costume Designer for the production is Earl Battle and once again the Technical / Set and Lighting Design is headed up by the immensely talented Cap Couduan and her wonderful crew. Couduan is respected for consistently providing leadership and training to students and crew while delivering a quality stage product for the theater groups to work with.

No production comes off without a hitch the way this one did opening night unless you have a very talented Stage Manager and Crew running things behind the scenes. Emily Ragusa and Marty Silk are to be congratulated along with the many others that work back stage, run lights, and generally keep things moving.

No one should miss this one! Family appropriate, older elementary age children would enjoy it if they are not frightened by the sounds of gun shots. The music is folksy and uplifting and there are some funny parts to the story as well.

All performances are in McKay Auditorium on the McKay School Campus. Performances are Wed 03/05 through Sat 03/08 at 8pm; and Thurs. 03/13 through Sat 03/15 at 8pm with a special matinee on 3/15 at 2pm. Ticket prices are \$8 adults, \$5 students. All proceeds benefit the summer trip to the Edinburgh competition.

C a l e n d e r o f E v e n t s

Art

Gallery Exhibition - March 19, 6:30 p.m., opening artist lecture for "Mixed Media" by Wendy A. Thornley in Ellis White Lecture Hall; 7:30 p.m., opening gallery reception in Hammond Art Gallery; free admission; exhibit continues through April 18.

Dance

Ailey II - March 21, 7 p.m. performance will be preceded at 6 p.m. by a 20-minute pre-concert talk by professor Susan Levine; tickets for performance \$20 general public, \$17 FSC staff, seniors, alums, groups, \$5 students and under 18/reserved seating; Weston Auditorium.

Film

"Cool Hand Luke" - March 27, 7 p.m.; part of the

FSC Classic Film Series; Ellis White Lecture Hall.

"Courage Under Fire" - March 13, 3:30 p.m.; part of the Leadership Film Series; Ellis White Lecture Hall.

"Kikujiro" - March 20, 7-10 p.m., screening of Kitano's road/summer odyssey; \$5 general public, \$3 seniors and students (at the door); Ellis White Lecture Hall, Hammond Building.

Special Events

St. Patty's Day Spring Break Bash - March 13, 9 p.m.; IDs required; Underground.

Study-Abroad Information Session - March 13, 10:30 p.m.; speak with a representative of Academic

Programs International; Office of International Education, Ross Street and Highland Avenue.

Volunteer Center - March 13, 6-8 p.m., volunteers needed to give manicures to residents of James Manor Nursing Home; van leaves from Aubuchon; sign up in advance at Volunteer Center in Hammond, x3649.

Theater

"The Call of the Wild" - March 5-9 and 12-15 at 8 p.m., and March 15 at 2 p.m.; \$8 for general public, \$5 for students and senior citizens; presented by the English and Industrial Technology departments; McKay Auditorium.

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Presidential search to continue

By Eileen Hamm

Interim President Michael Rivard addressed the issue of recent local newspaper reports that state that FSC was asked by the governor to stop the current presidential search. Rivard assured FSC students that this erroneous information was released by one of the governor's aides to the Sentinel and Enterprise newspaper. President Rivard made it clear that FSC was not asked to stop the search and that the process was still on track.

Rivard further revealed that he personally spoke to the Governor to receive clarification on this issue. He also received assurance during a telephone conference with the Chancellor and the Secretary Designate of Education who both confirmed that the process was still ongoing.

At press time, this presidential search has been narrowed to eleven semi-finalists following individual interviews that took place over a three-day period. Information on these eleven candidates is posted on the FSC web site. The job of the committee now entails narrowing this very diverse candidate pool to just three to five finalists. The committee is currently compiling background checks and will meet on Thursday, March 6, 2003 at 7:30 a.m. to narrow the field and present the list of candidates to the Board of Trustees.

Once the field has been narrowed, each final candidate will have a two-day campus visit scheduled for April. Members of the Board of Trustees will accompany the candidates to observe their interaction with the FSC community. In addition, members of the Board of Trustees will also observe the candidates at their current schools. In May the Board of Trustees will hold an open meeting at which time they will pick the new president. The chosen candidate will take over the office of president of FSC in July.

MASSPIRG Plans Community Earth Day Cleanup

By Tim Card

The FSC community in cooperation with Mount Wachusett Community College is planning an Earth Day event dedicated to restoring local facilities and helping the needy. The cleanup will take place on Sat., Apr. 12 with a rain date of April 13. The day will begin at 12:00 pm in the M&M lounge with a brief word from our speakers.

Following, teams and their leaders will branch out to seven different worksites. The day will conclude with a reception on the Hammond Patio. If you are interested in helping our community, registration tables will be set up in the G lobby on Mar. 11 and 25 from 9 am to 3 pm. You can also register in e-mail by sending your name, phone number, and preference of service (either environmental clean up or maintenance) to OurCommunity03@yahoo.com.

We hope to recruit at least 100 people from the surrounding communities and raise no less than last year's \$1,700 which will benefit hunger and homelessness here, in north central Massachusetts. Your service will be greatly appreciated since recent budget cuts have impacted organizations devoted to similar causes.

The Presidential Candidates...

The Presidential Search Committee has narrowed the list of candidates to 11 semi-finalists. By mid-March, the committee will forward to the college's Board of Trustees the names of three to five finalists. Those finalists will be brought to campus in late March or early April for a series of interviews and meetings with the college's various constituencies. "We're extremely pleased to have attracted such a high quality group of candidates," said Committee Chair Charles A. Gelinis.

In addition to Gelinis, the search committee comprises: Peter Alcock, Mary E. Bonin, and Beverly S. Farias, all trustees; Chola Chisunka, Elaine Francis, Michael Fiorentino, and Benjamin Lieberman, all faculty members; Vatche Arabian, a Student Government Association representative; William G. Flynn, representing the Alumni Association; Cheryl Groeneveld, vice president of finance; Clair Degutis, a representative of the administrators' union; and Laura Lawrence, representing the campus AFSCME chapter. In addition, there are three non-voting members: Jessica Murdoch and Jane Coviello of the college's Human Resources Department, who serve as affirmative action officers, and Michael Rivard, the college's interim president for the coming year, who will serve as clerk to the committee. (Fsc.edu)

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**Presidential
Semi-
finalists**

Robert V. Antonucci

President of Riverdeep-The Learning Company, Cambridge, MA.

Dr. Pearl W. Bartelt

Vice President for academic affairs, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT.

Dr. Raymond W. Cross

President, State University of New York (SUNY) at Morrisville

Linda K. Goldberg

Provost and Vice President for academic affairs, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania, Kutztown, PA.

Dr. Ben E. Johnson

President Peru State College (Peru, Nebraska)

Dr. W. Hubert Keen

Special assistant to the system provost, State University of New York, Albany, NY.

Dr. William J. Lowe

Vice President for academic affairs, The College of Saint Rose, Albany, NY.

Dr. Carol A. Moore

President Lyndon State College, Lyndonville, VT.

Dr. Suzanne H. Pasch

Vice Provost The College of New Jersey

Dr. Robert A. Sedlak

vice chancellor and provost, University of Wisconsin-Stout, Menomonie, WI.

Dr. Earl G. Yarbrough

Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs Virginia State University

Sports and Fitness week comes to Rec. Center

By Orlando Claffey

If you are looking to get in shape... or someone else thinks you should, the Recreation Center is holding a Sports and Fitness Week March 24 through March 28.

Several events have been scheduled, addressing all types and styles of physical fitness. Monday will kick off with the first portion of the Indoor Triathlon, which consists of three events: running, swimming and biking.

Ever watch ESPN2 in the afternoon. In between the 10th repeat of Sportscenter and whatever golf event is Tiger Woods is winning there is usually a bunch of huge men lifting things for no particular reason. Well, now you can do that too. The FSC Strong Man/Women competition will take place on Tuesday from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., along with the FitRock Challenge at the same time, which will test your strength on the rotating rock wall.

No. You cannot lift the rock wall machine.

Wednesday, the Rec. Center will be holding racquetball and handball clinics



from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the indoor courts, as well as an Ultra Aerobics at 5:15 p.m. Finally, on Thursday will be a 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament and Slam Dunk Contest at 8 p.m.

All throughout the week, the Rec. Center will be offering fitness testing. It consists of a series of activities used the gauge you athletic capabilities.

For more information, contact Pete Murray at x3613 or Jeff Godin at x3716.

Last Chance for Intramurals

Intramural first season is wrapping up fast and do not miss the opportunity to sign up for the second session sports. The second session sports include:

Three on three Basketball Tournament
Arena Flag Football
Floor Hockey
Racquetball
Co-Rec Volleyball.

Wiffleball tournament will be offered sometime during the second semester of Intramural Sports.

Reminder that rosters are due by this Friday, March 14, 2003! If you have not filled out a roster you can either get one from Pete Murray at the Recreation Center or go to <http://www.fsc.edu/intramural/>. You can now sign up right on the website. Good luck to those in the playoffs from the first session.

FSC Honor Roll

Joe Howell, Senior - Amassed 19 points and 11 rebounds in loss to Bridgewater.

Jen Fontaine, Freshman - Scored 17 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in a loss at Bridgewater St.

Sebastien Corbeil, Sophomore - Two goals, including the power play game-winner, vs JWU.

Falcons named to All-MASCAC team

Continued from Page 12

Falcon. This is the second spot earned by Corbeil, who made the second team his freshman year.

In his final season in green, Brian Geever was named to the second team. The Hudson native played defense for the Falcons.

The men's basketball team had a rough start to the season, but showed some life at the end with a final record of 5-7 in the MASCAC. Two Falcons, Joe Howell and Tahir Core, were named to the team.

Howell, a senior from Norwalk CT., received top honors for the second season in a row. He led the conference in rebounding with over 10 boards a game, second in steals with 65, and he led Fitchburg in scoring, averaging 15.9 points a game. Not only was he productive on the court, but was also the team leader off it.

After missing the first half of the season, Core came back strong. The senior averaged 13 points and over seven rebounds a game, providing the Falcons with a durable and experienced one-two punch.

Samantha Sweeny, a forward for the women's basketball team, was named to the second team All-MASCAC. The sophomore from Haverhill was a force underneath for the Falcons, grabbing 7.3 boards a game and providing consistent offense for the 5-7 team.

Dean Fuller, head coach of the Hockey team, was named MASCAC Coach of the Year. He led his skaters to a 16-8-2 record, and the second round of the Northwest ECAC tournament.

Manhattanville Smith

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very American thing to do.

Regardless of what your opinion is, both Americans and communist must agree that this whole incident has been a huge boost for Division III athletics and the economy. Over 300 midshipmen attended the Manhattanville, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy game to support their winless team and jeer at Smith, and the student government of Mount St. Mary College bought over \$100 worth of American flags to hand out to the 500 fans who not only got to shout at the silent power forward, but also got to watch a damn good basketball game.

Falcon teams could only hope to have such a devil worshipping teammate like the Mahattanville Valiants, who had one of their best season's, going 15-9.

With the basketball season over, the controversy will begin to die down, but not Smith's beliefs. Even in the face of adversity, she may have learned her most valuable lesson is not to balk when the going is tough. A virtue we hope all of our student athletes have.

Point SPORTS

Fitchburg State College Athletics

PointSport@Hotmail.com

Falcons leave their mark with postseason win

By Robin L. Kanter

With over seven hundred fans packed into Wallace Civic Center for the first round of the ECAC Northeast tournament versus Rhode Island's Johnson and Wales University.

The fourth seeded Falcons started slow in the first period, with minor penalties going to both teams. With three minutes left in the first period, Johnson and Wales scored, giving them the early lead. Matt O'Connor scored the goal. This was O'Connor's 12 goal of the season. Both Will Meyer and Brian Jacque assisted on the play.

Second period was up and the fans with ready with enthusiasm. FSC came back with a goal to tie the game up at one. Bill Burns scored for FSC. This is his 15th goal of the season. He is among the top scorers for FSC this year. Sophomore Chad Fletcher assisted Burns. FSC kept up the good work and came away with another goal two minutes later. This time Sophomore Sebastien Corbeil scored. This is Corbeil's sixteenth goal of the season. He along with Burns is also one of the top scorers for FSC. It was looking great for FSC until Johnson and Wales came back with a goal with less than 20 seconds remaining in the period. Manu Mau'u for Johnson and Wales scored the tying goal. This is his 23 goal of the season. Chris Thunman assisted Mau'u on the play.

Third period came around with a tied game at two. Three minutes into the third John Brennan scored for Johnson and Wales. His 14th goal of the season. Mau'u and Thunman assisted him. Less than three minutes later FSC came back with a goal by Bobby LeBlanc. This is only LeBlanc's second goal of the season. Dan Goulet assisted. With the game tied at three, each moment was filled with suspense. Corbeil scored the game winning goal with thirteen minutes left in the game. It was an unassisted power play goal.

Fitchburg players named to the All-MASCAC team

By Orlando Claffey

It has been a long winter for FSC athletics. Between missed expectations and tough playoff losses, several Falcons shined brought enough to garner attention from their MASCAC rivals.

Through hard work and determination, these students have led their respective

teams to glory.

Starting with the most successful winter sports team this year, the hockey team's leading scorer, sophomore Sebastien Corbeil, was named to the All-MASCAC first team. Corbeil scored 17 points and had 15 assists in his second full season as a

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Smith shakes up college basketball

By Orlando Claffey

Actions speak louder than words, and for Toni Smith, the Manhattanville basketball player that has turned her back to the American flag during the National Anthem, her actions have spurred such an uproar at the New York school that she has received national attention, making her the focal point of a sporting nation's moral dilemma.

She has been able to do, what thousands of picket line protesting college students have been unable. With a simple gesture of her strong convictions, the public has been thrown on its heels, seeing scandal where there is only intelligence.

Smith has endured taunts and protests at several arenas she has played at, including a rousing display at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. The pinnacle of idiocy came when Vietnam veteran Jerry Kiley rushed the court toting an flag, half of which was dragging on the ground, to confront the teenage hoops player. As he stood in front of her, berating her for her lack of patriotism, did he notice that he too was missing his chance to pledge allegiance. Looks like he is a communist too.

And what if this rash of anti-Americanism struck one of our athletes? Fitchburg State, unlike Mahattanville, is a public school, so many critics would not stand for a player protesting in a tax funded uniform. She would be representing our state sponsored school, so officials would be forced to react. Would they follow the lead of the Manhattanville's president, backing the right of his student to follow her beliefs, or would FSC's bureaucracy decide to be a gatekeeper and assert its authority.

When posed the question, Fitchburg State's Athletic Director Sue Lauder would not offer an opinion, but said the decision would not be hers, and would be handled at the school's highest level. If that is the case, the issue could transcend the school and fall into the lap some state higher education official or some power hungry politician looking to use the controversy to propel his career. An

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